

file

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LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

Mr. Cloke

Cabinet Office

Your minute ref A086/2844 of 9 October.

I have looked through all the papers we can find covering the events mentioned in your minute.

As regards the Blunt affair, Sir Robert Armstrong saw papers on this in February and March 1983 (when they were shown to Mr. Edward Heath) and in July 1984 (when they were shown to Lord Wilson).

We can find no record on our files of Mr. Peter Wright speaking or writing to Sir Robert about the succession of Jones to Hanley as DGSS. I will get Mr. Wicks to check the papers in his cupboard when he returns from Bournemouth.

We cannot find any papers relating to Hollis earlier than 1977. This seems curious to me, and I am having a further search made.

C. D. POWELL

9 October 1986

OM

Ref. A086/2844

MR POWELL

You queried with me on the telephone why I asked on behalf of Sir Robert Armstrong to see certain papers in Confidential Filing. It may be useful for you if I outlined the background. As you know, Sir Robert is required to appear in Australia re the Wright case. Because of this he asked me to establish whether:

1. During his time as Principal Private Secretary he would have seen a minute from the then Cabinet Secretary, Sir Burke Trend, to the then Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath, alerting the latter to the Blunt affair. Sir Robert thinks he saw this minute some time in 1972 (and I can say from personal experience of Sir Robert's memory that he is usually correct).
2. As Peter Wright alleges in his book, he either spoke to or wrote to Sir Robert Armstrong about the succession of Jones to Hanley as DGSS.
2. Also, Sir Robert will need to refresh his memory as to whether he knew during his time as Principal Private Secretary about the investigation into Hollis

Christopher Cloke

C G CLOKE

9 October 1986

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